that adulteration related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units etc., under their jurisdiction to identity the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retails Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

Besides the measures already in place, effective 2nd October, 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchyati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and desirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country. It is hoped this will lead to a significant breakthrough in the delivery of subsidized SKO to the entitled segments of society and thus contribute to the curbing of diversion for adulteration.

Black Marketing of Kerosene in Uttar Pradesh

†2237. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of black marketing of kerosene in public distribution system and mixing of kerosene in diesel and petrol pumps;

(b) the quantity of kerosene being supplied by Government under public distribution system, district-wise, State/UT-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the adulteration in diesel and petrol; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government against black marketing of kerosene and selling of adulterated petrol and diesel in the district of Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. As per a recent study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research to assess the genuine demand and requirement of kerosene, siphoning off of kerosene from PDS to non-household use is estimated as 18.1 per cent of total sale of PDS kerosene.

Kerosene has been allocated to States/UTs on a historical basis for further distribution under the Public Distribution System network. Details of State-wise allocation of SKO for distribution under PDS for the year 2005-06 given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(c) The Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken the following steps to contain the menace of adulteration:

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/surprise checks to ensure that adulteration-related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for

penatly of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

(iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(v) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent enroute adulteration by transporters.

(vi) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being instroduced.

(vii) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.

(viii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and deesirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

(d) Government Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular/surprise inspection of SKO dealers/Retail Outlets (ROs) to detect

irregularities/malpractices. OMCs have reportedly detected no case of black-marketing (overcharging) of kerosene in the district of Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh. However, during April-Sept., 2005 BPCL have detected one case of High Speed Diesel (HSD) sample failure in district Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh and taken action as per the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Statement

Allocation made during the year 2005-06

(figures in MTs)

Name of State/UT	Quantity Allocated
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5816
Andhra Pradesh	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9257
Assam	258007
Bihar	647430
Chandigarh	13067
Chhattisgarh	146938
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2782
Daman and Diu	2118
Delhi	168484
Goa	19212
Gujarat	743759
Haryana	145619
Himachal Pradesh	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	76044
Jharkhand	211175
Karnataka	461478
Kerala	216308
Lakshadweep	795
Madhya Pradesh	488609
Maharashtra	1276876
Manipur	19907

Name of State/UT	Quantity Allocated
Meghalaya	20401
Mizoram	6217
Nagaland	13312
Orissa	314977
Pondicherry	12257
Punjab	237192
Rajasthan	398913
Sikkim	5582
Tamil Nadu	558929
Tripura	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1241772
Uttaranchal	89849
West Bengal	752103
TOTAL	9163712

Discussion on Supply of Petroleum Products

†2238. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks by Government are going on with other countries for supply of petroleum and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of countries with whom talks held so far; and

(d) the decisions taken by Government in consequence of the above talks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) In keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL and GAIL have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad and oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have participating interests in oil and gas projects located

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.